

Rebecca Pontes (Drug Chemist)

Qualifications

- Q. Please state your name for the record.
- Q. Who are you employed with?
Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Drug Lab in Amherst.
- Q. What do you do for Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health?
Chemist II
- Q. Do you work out of a laboratory?
- Q. Where is the laboratory located?
Amherst.
- Q. How long have you been a chemist with the Mass. Dept of Public Health?
Over 5 years.
- Q. What is the nature of your duties at the Mass. Dept. of Public Health?
Perform qualitative analysis of drugs.
- Q. What is your educational background?
I have a BS degree from UMASS.
- Q. What did you receive a degree in?
Biology
- Q. As a Chemist with the Mass. Dept. of Public Health have you received any special training in the field of drug analysis and identification?
- Q. In your capacity as a Chemist with the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, how many times have you had the occasion to test for the presence of a controlled substance?
- Q. Have you testified in Court here in Massachusetts regarding the testing of controlled substances?

How the Lab Tests Drugs

- Q. How do the police after they seize a substance have those substances tested?
- Q. After the Lab receives a substance to be tested, what happens next?
The sample is given a number.

Q. Will that number stay with the substance through the very end until the time it leaves the lab?

Yes.

Q. What three tests does the lab performed to determine if items are controlled substances?

Ultraviolet Spectroscopy

Infrared Spectroscopy

Gas Chromatography, Mass Spectrometry (GCMS) (one technique)

Show the chemist the item tested

THE TEST OF THE COCAINE

Q. Ms. Pontes showing you what has been [either marked for identification or admitted as a Commonwealth exhibit] do you recognize this item?

Yes.

Q. How do you recognize this item?

This is our laboratory case number (A11-00820) which was given to the substance when brought into the lab by Officer Price on March 8, 2011 and also has my initials.

Q. Is this in substantially the same condition as when you received it?

What changes are there?

Other than that does the government's exhibit appear to be in the same condition?

Q. Did you perform a test?

Q. When did you perform the test?
March 22, 2011.

Q. What test did you perform?

Q. Based on your training and experience and the analysis that you performed do you have an opinion as to what the substance is?

Cocaine.

Q. What is Cocaine?

A controlled substance – a derivative of Coca Leaves.

Q. What class does it fall under?

Class B.

Q. You also weighed the cocaine?

Q. How was this done?

Q. What was the net weight of the cocaine?
1.36

Q. Did you memorialize your finding?

Q. Do you recognize this document?

Q. What is it?
Drug certificate (that corresponds to this piece of evidence – same drug lab number on the item as well as the certificate)

Q. Is this your signature at the bottom of the certificate?

Q. Is this the original certificate?
Yes.

Move certificate into evidence as Commonwealth's Exhibit _____.

Q. After the cocaine was tested what did you do with the cocaine?
It is stored at the lab until Officer Price of PPD picks it up.

At this time move the Cocaine into evidence as Commonwealth's Exhibit _____, if not already admitted into evidence.

TEST OF THE HEROIN

Q. Ms. Pontes showing you what has been [either marked for identification or admitted as a Commonwealth exhibit] do you recognize this item?
Yes.

Q. How do you recognize this item?
This is our laboratory case number (A11-00822) which was given to the substance when brought into the lab by Officer Price on March 8, 2011 and also has my initials.

Q. Is this in substantially the same condition as when you received it?
What changes are there?
Other than that does the government's exhibit appear to be in the same condition?

Q. Did you perform a test?
Q. When did you perform the test?

March 22, 2011.

Q. What test did you perform?

Q. Did you test each individual glassine bag?

No.

Q. Explain what you did?

Tested 2 glassine bags which determined the identification of the contents.

Q. Based on your training and experience and the analysis that you performed do you have an opinion as to what the substance is?

Heroin.

Q. What is Heroin?

A controlled substance.

Q. What class does it fall under?

Class A.

Q. Did you memorialize your finding?

Q. Do you recognize this document?

Q. What is it?

Drug certificate (that corresponds to this piece of evidence – same drug lab number on the item as well as the certificate)

Q. Is this your signature at the bottom of the certificate?

Q. Is this the original certificate?

Yes.

Move certificate into evidence as Commonwealth's Exhibit _____.

Q. After the cocaine was tested what did you do with the cocaine?

It is stored at the lab until Officer Price of PPD picks it up.

At this time move the Cocaine into evidence as Commonwealth's Exhibit _____, if not already admitted into evidence.